

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A gear unit comprising a housing, two shafts arranged parallel with one another and each supporting a helically cut toothed gear, and two pairs of bearings supported by or relative to the housing in an arrangement in which each pair of bearings rotatably supports a shaft with the toothed gears of the two shafts being rotatable one relative to the other in mutual engagement, wherein two bearings of the two shafts lying to a common side of the inter-engaged helical gears are supported by a substantially common wall section of the gear unit housing, one of said two bearings being arranged to transmit to said housing wall section axial forces acting in a direction from the gears to the bearing and the other bearing being arranged to transmit to said wall section axial forces acting in a direction from said other bearing to the gears.
2. (original) A gear unit according to claim 1 wherein said two bearings of the two shafts lying to a common side of the inter-engaged helical gears are taper roller bearings.
3. (currently amended) A gear unit according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the bearings of one shaft are arranged in the manner of an X type bearing configuration and the bearings of the other shaft are arranged in an O type configuration.
4. (original) A gear unit comprising a housing, two shafts arranged parallel with one another and each supporting a

helically cut toothed gear, and two pairs of taper roller bearings supported by or relative to the housing in an arrangement in which each pair of bearings rotatably supports a shaft with the toothed gears of the two shafts being rotatable one relative to the other in mutual engagement, the pair of taper roller bearings of one shaft being provided axially spaced in an O configuration in which the diameter of the bearing rollers of each bearing increases progressively in the direction away from the other bearing of the pair, and the taper roller bearings of the other shaft being provided axially spaced in an X configuration in which the diameter of the bearing rollers of each bearing decreases progressively in the direction away from the other bearing of the pair.

5. (currently amended) A gear unit according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein each shaft comprises a helical gear positioned axially between the pair of bearings of that shaft.

6. (currently amended) A gear unit according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 and comprising at least three mutually parallel shafts each provided with a helically cut toothed gear and rotatably supported in a housing by a pair of bearings, the low speed shaft being rotatably supported by bearings arranged in an X or O configuration of a type opposite the configuration of the bearings of the neighboring shaft.

7. (original) A gear unit according to claim 6 wherein the low speed shaft is rotatably supported by bearings arranged in an X or O configuration and the gear unit comprises at least two additional shafts each rotatably supported by bearings arranged in the same configuration as one another, and opposite the configuration of the low speed shaft.

8. (original) A gear unit according to claim 7 wherein the low speed shaft is rotatably supported by bearings arranged in an X type configuration.

9. (cancelled)